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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/841,667	04/24/2001	Viveka Linde	ALBIHN W 3.0-406	6227

21003 7590 04/19/2005

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EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/841,667

Applicant(s)

LINDE ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final, first office action on the merits. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because descriptive material that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way in which computing processes are performed does not constitute a statutory process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter. Where descriptive material, such as arrangements and compilations of facts or data, are merely stored so as to be read or outputted by a computer without creating any functional interrelationship, this material alone does not impart functionality either to the data so structured or so the computer. Such “descriptive material” is not a process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter (i.e. Data consists of facts, which become information when seen in context and conveying meaning to people. Computers process data without any understanding of what the data represents). See MPEP 2106 (IV)B(1).

Claim 20 recites a computer-readable data carrier for storing market and marketing information regarding at least one first product. The data is considered non-functional descriptive material since the claim only recites a storage medium with no functionality concerning the way in which computing processes are performed using the data. Therefore, claim 20 is considered non-statutory for the reasons discussed above (i.e. descriptive material that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way in which computing processes

Art Unit: 3623

are performed does not constitute a statutory process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Medical Radar (“Guide to Success”).

4. As per claim 1, Medical Radar teaches a method for computerized processing and presenting market and marketing information regarding at least one first product, comprising:

storing, in a database, collected data related to at least one key success factor associated with at least the market performance which is related to said first product (See page 1, section 1, page 2, pages 5-6, page 11, page 12, page 17, page 20, which discuss collecting data related to the success of a first product);

forecasting, in a central computer unit, the future sales of said first product based on said collected data related to said at least one key success factor (See page 1, section 1, page 2, page 4, page 16, section 1, page 20, wherein the system is used to forecast the future sales of the product based on the current collected data); and

transmitting said information to at least one external user (See page 1, section 1, page 2, sections 1 and 3, page 11, page 15, and page 20, which discuss the consulting services and the providing of a report and other data to user external of the consultants).

Art Unit: 3623

5. As per claim 2, Medical Radar discloses wherein the key success factor associated with the market performance is constituted by information related to at least one of the following measures: a measure of the number of new customers purchasing said first product (See page 2, sections 1-2, page 16, section 1, page 17, pages 19-20, which discuss market share in terms of New, Switch, Supplementary, and Repeat markets)
6. As per claim 3, Medical Radar teaches collecting data related an additional success factor corresponding to measure of a proportion customers adopting said first product during predetermined adoption process (See page 4, page 6, page 7, section 3, page 16, section 1, page 17, pages 19-21, wherein data is collected related to a customer's perception of a launch process. The system has predetermined models dealing with the launching process).
7. As per claim 4, Medical Radar teaches collecting data related an additional key success factor corresponding to a measure of a proportion of customers recalling personal promotion during a particular time period and related to said first product (See page 2, section 2, page 6, page 7, section 3, page 9, section 1, pages 19-20, which discuss reactions to promotions).
8. As per claim 5, Medical Radar teaches collecting data related an additional key success factor corresponding to the marketing productivity related to said first product (See page 2, pages 6-7, page 11, pages 18-20, which discusses the productivity of marketing on the products market placement).
9. As per claim 6, Medical Radar discloses wherein said marketing productivity corresponds to measure the impact of detailing related to said first product (See page 2, section 3, page 9, section 1, page 18, and page 20, which discuss measuring the impact of detailing).

Art Unit: 3623

10. As per claim 7, Medical Radar discloses collecting data related an additional key success factor corresponding to the rationales for selecting said first product (See page 2, page 5-6, page 9, page 17, and page 20, which discuss why a customer chooses the first product).

11. Claims 9, 10, 12-18, and 20 recite equivalent limitations to claims 1, 2, 1-7, and 1, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale set forth above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 11, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medical Radar ("Guide to Success") and Von Gonten (U.S. 6,708,156).

13. As per claims 8, 11, and 19, Medical Radar discloses that information is transmitted to said user and that the computing unit and database are connected (See page 1, page 2, pages 9-10, page 13, page 16, section 1, page 20, which discloses information being transmitted to a user via a report and also data collection, models, and a collection and presentation system).

However, Medical Radar does not specifically disclose the information being transmitted via the Internet or the system connected to the Internet.

Von Gonten discloses a system that projects the market penetration of a product by collecting data over the Internet, storing the data and performing analysis on the data, and allowing the data to be reported and retrieved using the Internet (See column 8, lines 20-50,

Art Unit: 3623

column 9, lines 1-30, column 10, lines 8-25 and 40-55, wherein the internet is used in the system).

Both Von Gonten and Medical Radar disclose analyzing market penetration of a product. Specifically, Medical Radar discloses transmitting reports and information to customers of the system. See page 10, where an email address is requested. Therefore, it would have been obvious to transmit and connect the system of Medical Radar using the Internet in order to increase the efficiency of disseminating data to customers of the system.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lerner (U.S. 5,526,257) teaches an evaluation system connected to a database, the system evaluating products and factors that cause to products to succeed or fail.

Abelow (U.S. 5,999,908) discloses a product design system that receives inputs concerning products and refines the products.

Case (U.S. 6,589,785) teaches analyzing growth strategies associated with a company, its market, etc.

"Medical Radar International" (www.medical-radar.se) discloses a market research tool that measures the penetration of a product into a market and forecasts the product's performance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (571) 272-6737.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

Art Unit: 3623


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bvd

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April 8, 2005


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